

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**  
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1008P005PCTf	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/SG2005/000089	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 22 March 2005	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 8 April 2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC  Int. Cl. <b>B05C 17/02</b> (2006.01)			
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<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of 2 sheets, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</li> </ul> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul>
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Date of submission of the demand 12 August 2005	Date of completion of this report 27 February 2006
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## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/SG2005/000089

**Box No. I Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on:

The international application in the language in which it was filed  
 A translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:  
 international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b))  
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))  
 international preliminary examination (Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages 1-9 as originally filed/furnished  
 pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_  
 pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the claims:

pages as originally filed/furnished  
 pages\* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
 pages\* 10-11 received by this Authority on 15 August 2005 with the letter of 12 August 2005  
 pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the drawings:

pages 1/6 – 6/6 as originally filed/furnished  
 pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_  
 pages\* received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_ with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages  
 the claims, Nos.  
 the drawings, sheets/figs  
 the sequence listing (*specify*):  
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

4.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages  
 the claims, Nos.  
 the drawings, sheets/figs  
 the sequence listing (*specify*):  
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/SG2005/000089

<b>Box No. V</b>	<b>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</b>
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**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-11	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-11	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-11	YES
	Claims	NO

**2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

Claims 1-11 meet the criteria set forth in PCT Articles 33(2) – 33(4) for novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability. The prior art published before the priority date does not disclose or obviously suggest a paint roller comprising a frustoconically-shaped applicator, a coupler end, a distal end, an external surface between the coupler and distal ends, a paint-absorbable member, a circular integral guard at the coupler end, and a rolling guide at the distal end, wherein the rolling guide coacts with a resilient means. The resilient means allows eccentric rotation of the rolling guide relative to the axis of rotation.

**Claims**

1. A paint roller for applying paint onto a surface comprising:  
a frustoconically-shaped applicator having:  
    a coupler end;  
    a distal end;  
    an external surface between the coupler end and the distal end; and  
    a paint-absorbable member;  
a circular integral guard disposed at the coupler end; and  
a rolling guide disposed at the distal end  
    wherein the rolling guide coacts with a resilient means to permit rotation about an axis of rotation.
2. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the planar cross-section of the coupler end is not the same as the planar cross-section of the distal end.
3. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the frustoconically-shaped applicator further comprising a chamber defined by the coupler end, the distal end and the external surface joining the coupler and distal ends; the chamber further having a plurality of perforations.
4. The paint roller of Claim 3, wherein the chamber is accessible by a closable inlet.
5. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the coupler end has a coupler to fit a handle.
6. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the coupler end permits rotation of the paint applicator about an axis.

7. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the diameter of the integral guard is predetermined to allow the circular integral guard to contact the surface only when excessive force is used to apply paint.
8. The rolling guide of Claim 1, wherein the resilient means is radially-disposed about the axis of rotation of the frustoconically-shaped applicator.
9. The rolling guide of Claim 1, wherein the resilient means is held in place by a retainer.
10. The rolling guide of Claim 1, wherein the rolling guide permits eccentric rotation of the paint applicator in use.
11. A method of selectively applying paint onto surfaces and surface corners, the method comprising:  
using a paint roller comprising a frustoconically-shaped applicator, an integral guard and a rolling guide,  
whereby  
the integral guard prevents a paint-absorbable surface mounted on the applicator from being excessively compressed, thereby preventing an undesirably thick coat of paint from being applied, and  
the rolling guide permits paint to be precisely applied to surface corners and uneven surfaces.